

Lambert House
412 East Zaragoza Street
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-259

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

LAMBERT HOUSE

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Location: 412 East Zaragoza Street, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. The house is located on the north side of the street east of Alcaniz Street.

Present Owner and Occupant: Cook Cleland

Present Use: Antique Shop

Statement of Significance: This structure, referred to as a "high house" with its unusually high foundation piers, is an enlarged version of typical Gulf Coast cottage architecture.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The first known owner of this property, Lot 49, Block 9, was John Hudson of Pensacola, who sold one half of the lot (40' x 170') on May 28, 1781, to Alonzo Casme for \$150. It changed hands some five weeks later when it was purchased by Domingo Mauricio for \$155. Mauricio also secured the other half of the lot in addition to the garden lot (105' x 208') that went with it. The vacant lot passed through several additional hands the next few years including Jayme Rivera, Juan Ruby, Juan LaCaste, Antonio Maldonado, and Ignacio Sierra.

Sierra, a sea captain, purchased Lot 49, April 2, 1800, for \$500. It was not until around 1818 that he constructed a house on the property. On April 30, 1822, Leon Nicholas obtained a court order authorizing a foreclosure for \$763.50 against Sierra. The house and lot were sold on June 5, 1822, for \$320. Colonel John Roger Fenwick, a marine from South Carolina who commanded American Naval forces at Pensacola and St. Marks, secured the title to the property through the United States Land Commissioners in 1824. It appears that Fenwick disposed of the property when he was transferred to Norfolk and that the original house on the lot was probably either demolished or moved from the lot.

The vacant property was owned by Commander Josiah Tatnall, who was a veteran of the War of 1812 and a hero of the Mexican War. It was his flagship, the Spitfire, which

had bombarded the city of Vera Cruz. Tatnall sold the property for \$250 to George W. Barkley in 1847, who sold it on September 21, 1852, to Xavier Lambert for \$350.

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24-

Cecile Lambert, Xavier's widow, sold the property for \$1500 to Frank Charbonier on January 9, 1886. Charbonier, a Pensacola realtor, willed the property to his brother, Joseph Anthony, and his sisters, Pauline Isabell and Marie Dolores, in 1889. The Charbonier family continued to own and rent the property through the twentieth century until 1939 when Pauline Charbonier willed the property to Ralph F. Bowes, Marie A. Lee and Gregoria Nicolau.

Ralph Bowes had acquired the title to the property in June 1944, when he sold it to Rox Crowley for \$3900. Crowley sold the property to Maude McEvers in October 1945, who sold it to Cook Cleland July 1968.

2. Date of erection: It appears from the title abstract that the existing house was built during the ownership of Xavier Lambert sometime after 1852 when he purchased the property for \$350 and when his widow sold the property for \$1500 in 1886.
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Original plans and construction information: None known
5. Alterations and additions: The rear apron porch has been enclosed.
6. Important old views: None known

B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Antonio Maldonado was a native of the Castilla La Vieja district of Spain. As a soldier in the Memorial Infantry of the King, he had participated in the campaign against Pensacola in 1781. Later when the Louisiana Infantry Regiment was organized under Estevan Miro, he joined it. Maldonado actually owned Lot 38 and exchanged this with LaCoste for Lot 49 on August 17, 1796.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Spanish Archives and Court House Records, Clerk of Courts Office, Escambia County Court House, Pensacola, Florida.
2. Secondary and published sources: None known

Prepared by Samuel Proctor
1969

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FLA
17-PENSA
24-

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Description: This structure is an enlarged version of the typical Gulf coast cottage. Referred to as a "high house," its foundation piers are considerably higher than other houses in the area. The scale of the rooms of the two room deep plan is exceptionally large.
- B. Description of Exterior:
1. Overall dimensions: This one story rectangular plan building with its large attic space is 33'-9" wide by 46'-7" deep which includes the original porches but excludes the rear additions. The short dimension parallels the street and has four bays.
 2. Foundations: Brick piers support the structure. The spaces between the piers of the front porch are filled in with brick lattice work which has collapsed in several bays.
 3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wood frame structure has $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6" weatherboarding exposed to the weather on the gable end walls. The front and rear walls behind the inset porches are sheathed with $5\frac{1}{4}$ " flush siding. Painted a light beige, the walls contrast to the warm brown trim.
 4. Structural system, framing: The wood platform frame consists of three main beams, 8" vertical by 9" horizontal, which are notched to receive 3" x 8" floor joists, 22" on center. The beams run the short dimension of the house and are spliced at the center with a pegged joint. 3" x 4" studs are mortised and tenoned into plates at the floor and at the ceiling level, 18" on center. Within the gables the studs are 23" on center. Some diagonal bracing has been used between the main floor studs. The attic floor joists, $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", are 34" on center. The 3" x 5" rafters with 1" x 6" collar beams, meet at a 1" x 6" ridge pole. At the front and rear walls the knee wall studs are widely spaced in the attic and carry 3" x $5\frac{3}{4}$ " top plates which partially support the roof.
 5. Porches: The front and rear walls of the house are set back from the eaves forming inset porches. The existing front porch eaves are supported on six hollow square columns

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with chamfered corners. Decorative jig-saw cut corner brackets extend from applied mouldings, which form capitals, to the plain boxed soffit. The balustrade consists of a moulded handrail supported on jig-saw cut balusters in an open urn pattern and are notched over a bottom rail. Brick podia with concrete caps flank the front, concrete steps.

The rear apron porch was enclosed to gain additional interior space. Two small shed roofed frame porches with open riser steps have been added to the rear on either side of a bathroom appendage.

6. Chimneys: A central, two flue chimney, with a two course corbelled cap and front and rear drip courses, extends through the attic space at a 74 degree angle to project through the roof aligning its rear side with the roof's ridge.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doorways from the original porches give access to the interior. The doorways are trimmed with a plain board having a bead around the opening. At the front elevation the original doors have been removed. New casings were inserted within the original frames to accommodate modern stock glazed doors. Ghosted marks on the front door thresholds indicate that there were inswinging double doors similar to the rear glazed double doors. One pair of doors has six lights over two panels in each leaf. The other pair has three lights over one panel in each leaf. Hinge rebates indicate that outswinging paired shutters or louvered blinds were formerly located on all the exterior doorways of the original house.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The first floor windows have six-over-six light double hung sash with narrow muntins and rails. At the front and rear elevations the window openings are trimmed with a beaded board. Sections of hinges indicate that there were pairs of shutters or blinds at all the windows, which still retain some old glazing. At the window in each attic gable, the upper sash of the four-over-four light sash have been replaced by wood louvers. Iron pintles indicate that there were single shutters on the windows as well as a later pair of shutters or blinds indicated by hinge rebates.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The gable roof, its ridge parallel to the street, has an approximately 33 degree slope. The roof has wood shingles nailed to 1" x 5" sheathing. The shingles are covered with modern asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice and eaves: The front eaves with a cyma recta crown moulding are boxed to enclose sheet metal gutters. Round downspouts project through the bottom of the soffit at either end. The cornice has 2'-9" returns onto the gable ends.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Main floor: The original four rooms of the main floor originally opened onto the front and rear porches. The front rooms are of equal size and are separated by a fireplace wall, while the rear rooms are separated by an off center partition which creates rooms of unequal size. Connecting doorways are located in each interior partition. The three larger original rooms have simple woodenclosets. Three rooms fill in the original rear porch with the center room providing access to a bathroom which extends beyond the original rear line of the house. The three rooms are accessible through the original rear porch doors and a rear window opening which has been cut down for a door.
 - b. Attic space: The area is undivided except for the chimney stack.
2. Stairways: There are no stairways. Access to the attic is gained through a hatchway in the ceiling of the original porch. (A shipsladder extends to the attic from the southwest room. It appears to have been installed after 1968.)
 3. Flooring: The main floor and attic floor have 1" x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (average) tongue and groove boards.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plaster over wood lath with flush board sheathing on the ceilings in the original rooms. Painted undersides of the attic floor boards and the floor joists indicate that they were exposed originally. The ceilings of the front rooms are painted white. The ceilings of the rear rooms are painted a light green. The rear porch rooms are finished in various combinations of flush boards, car siding, and wall board.

5. Doorways and doors: Original four panel doors with wooden thresholds remain in all the interior openings. The frames have simple beaded trim. HABS
FLA
17-PENSA
24-
6. Decorative features and trim: Though the woodwork is generally characterized by beaded trim, plain rounded window sills, and 8" beaded baseboards, there are fireplaces in each front room which have simple wood enframements. A plain beaded fascia supports a cyma reversa moulding and a rounded corner mantelshelf.
7. Notable hardware: Some of the original doors retain their carpenter's locks with keyhole escutcheons and porcelain knobs. T-shaped window sash locks remain at the original windows.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Lighting: No notable fixtures.
 - b. Heating: A fireplace in each front room has an arched cast iron fire enclosure with cement facias, fire brick backs, and sheet metal front covers. The covers were perforated to receive stove pipes. The cement hearths have rounded wood floor trim. An opening in the attic chimney indicates that there may have been a stove in the attic.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting: Approximately 25 feet back from the front property line, the house faces south on a residential street which has several other early houses along it. Immediately to west is a modern one story masonry office building. To the east is an overgrown vacant lot. There are no outbuildings.
2. Landscaping: A modern concrete walk extends from the front steps to the property line. The lot is generally in an overgrown condition.

Prepared by A. Craig Morrison
Architect, HABS
June 18-19, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project, sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, now known as the Historic Pensacola Preservation

Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, was recorded during the summer of 1968 in Pensacola under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS; Professor F. Blair Reeves, AIA (University of Florida), Project Supervisor; and Student Assistant Architects John O. Crosby (University of Florida), David L. Van de Ven, Jr. (Texas Technological College), and Edward Bondi, Jr. (University of Florida). The historical information was prepared by Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), by Assistant Historian Linda V. Ellsworth (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), and by Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS) who edited all the data in 1972. 17-PENSA 24-